

he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished

Rev. 13:7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

The beast is allowed to make war with the saints—and to overcome them.

This is also affirmed in **Daniel 7:21**: “I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them.” To prevail is “to overcome; to gain the victory or superiority; to gain the advantage; to have the upper hand, or the mastery; to succeed.” Who are the saints? Those who are holy, religious, consecrated, morally blameless—those who put their faith in Jesus.

At first my mind jumped to spiritual warfare, but the more I think about it, I think this is just talking about physical confrontation and victory. The verse goes on to say that the beast has power / authority / control over ALL kindreds (races, clans), tongues (languages), and nations (foreign, non-Jewish races, Gentiles). This seems to be directly related to physical control. Again, that is not an unbelievable thing considering the technology available in this day and age.

Rev. 13:8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Everyone on earth will worship the beast except one group—those whose names are written in the book of life of the Lamb. Emphasis is given to the fact that the Lamb was slain from the foundation of the world. It was a done deed from God’s perspective from the very beginning of creation.

This is another amazing affirmation that God’s total plan of redemption was in place before the world was ever created. Because our mind is so limited in understanding compared to God’s, man has a hard time accepting this truth. I have heard so many debates and read so many articles related to this subject. The bottom line is that we either accept God at His word or we don’t. His word states that He knew all before He created. His word states that He chose to give man the freedom to make choices. His word states that He is not willing that any should perish. His word states that election is His privilege and is based on His foreknowledge. I, for one, embrace it all. I have no problem accepting that the God of the Bible knew not only everything that would happen on planet earth, but that He knew what would have happened in all possible scenarios. I also believe that He set into motion the scenario that allowed man’s choices and His will to work hand-in-hand. I can’t truly fathom how He could do this; and

anything less is trying to fit God into a sphere of my complete understanding. If I could do that, He would no longer be the God of the Bible in my opinion.

Considering my conclusion of the truth in the above paragraph, it is not surprising to see reference to a “book of life” that provides a record of all those that would choose to follow the LORD and accept His provision for redemption through the sacrifice of His Son Jesus on the cross. According to my study, I believe that all names are written in the book of life until their opportunity for salvation has been finally rejected—at which time their name is blotted out. Both Moses and the psalmist allude to this truth.